

Sin's Consequences

30. We should expect painful consequences when our sin impacts those _____ to us (Genesis 21:1-2, 8-10; Galatians 6:7-8).

Reflection and Response

Though some consequences for sinful behavior will always linger, how can we follow Paul's example in "forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead" (see Philippians 3:13-14)?

Acting Responsibly

31. Regardless of the consequences of our sins, we are to confess those sins, accept God's forgiveness and move _____ in our Christian lives (Genesis 21:11-14, 33-34; 1 Timothy 1:15-16).

Reflection and Response

How has God been able to use mistakes you've made to cause you to mature in your Christian life and to even be able to encourage others?

Spiritual Testing

32. We should not be surprised when God allows unique tests to come into our lives to enable us to become more _____ in our Christian experience (Genesis 22:1-2; Leviticus 18:21; Genesis 22:9-12, 15-19; Hebrews 11:17-19; James 1:2-4; See Principle 1 in James).

Reflection and Response

In what ways has God tested you and how has it helped you face difficult situations with greater faith and endurance?

Lifestyle Evangelism

33. We should live godly lives before unbelievers in order to _____ that we are truly God's children (Genesis 23:1-6; 1 Peter 2:11-12; See Principle 5 in 1 Peter).

Reflection and Response

What are some of the most difficult challenges all of us face in living for Christ in a world that is becoming increasingly more hostile to biblical values? (See Romans 1:16; Matthew 10:16.)

Praying in God's Will

34. We are to pray _____ and _____ but always in harmony with God's revealed will in the Word of God (Genesis 24:1-4, 12-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 John 5:14-15; James 4:2c-3).

Reflection and Response

Though God wants us to pray consistently and according to His will, what are some of the cautions we should take in asking God for specific signs to demonstrate His will? (See Principle 13 in Judges).

Being Thankful

35. We are to humbly _____ and _____ God when He answers our prayers (Genesis 24:15-17, 26-27, 48; 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18; Ephesians 3:20-21).

Reflection and Response

Why is it so easy to forget to thank and praise God for answers to prayer, as well as His daily care and provisions?

Modeling Christ

36. As husbands, we should be an _____ to our wives in living the Christian life. (Genesis 26:19-22; Ephesians 5:23, 25; Philippians 2:6; Galatians 5:22-23a, See Principle 14 in Ephesians).

Reflection and Response

Why is it also very important that this principle be applied by fathers in relationship to their children? (See 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

Parental Favoritism

37. We must be on constant guard against Satan's tactics to keep us from being _____ and _____ parents (Genesis 25: 27-28; James 2:1, 8-9).

Reflection and Response

How can parents distinguish between ministering to each of their children's personal needs for love and attention, and yet not show favoritism?

Deceptive Behavior

38. We are never to take advantage of another person's weaknesses in order to achieve our own _____ goals (Genesis 25:29-34; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1).

Reflection and Response

In what practical ways can we avoid exploiting others in order to achieve our own selfish goals?

NEW TESTAMENT PRINCIPLES

32. Principle 1 in James—Persecution and Trials

When we face various difficulties, we should view these painful experiences as opportunities to become more mature in our spiritual walk with Jesus Christ.

33. Principle 5 in 1 Peter—Light in this World

To be God's witness in this world, local churches must function as dynamic, transformed communities that reflect God's holiness.

34. Principle 13 in Judges—Determining God's Will

We must be very cautious in asking God to verify what He has already made clear in His direct revelation in Scripture.

36. Principle 14 in Ephesians—Mutual Submission

In order to walk in God's will, we must practice mutual submission, regardless of our God-ordained roles in the church, our families and our marriages.